



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

November 5, 2003

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants

The fiscal year 2004 appropriation for Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, includes funds to be distributed through a competitive grant process to local education agencies as well as community-based and faith-based organizations for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). A community learning center offers academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to students and their families when school is not in session. The activities are designed to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. The allocation to Michigan for this purpose is expected to be \$31 million in 2004, of which approximately \$21 million will be used for continuation grants, \$8.7 million for new competitive grants, and \$1.5 million for administration, training, and technical assistance.

This is the third year that the appropriation for ESEA has included funds allocated to state education agencies for 21st CCLC grants. The U.S. Department of Education guidance regarding the allocation and use of 21st CCLC funds requires state education agencies to target local education agencies (and community-based or faith-based organizations serving the same children) whose schools primarily serve students who attend schools with high concentrations of poor students, giving priority to applicants serving children in low-performing schools. Priority is also given to applicants that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement under Title I and that are submitted jointly by school districts receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations.

The attached "Criteria for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants" provides background information and the proposed criteria for distribution of the FY 2004 appropriation.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 5, 2003.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CRITERIA FOR 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS GRANTS

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal “Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students.” In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- Ensuring Excellent Educators
- Elevating Educational Leadership
- Embracing the Information Age
- Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

☒ Competitive ☐ Formula ☐ New ☒ Continuation *(check all that apply)*

Nationally, it is estimated that 24 million school-age children have working parents, including five million who get no adult supervision during their out-of-school time. Too many school-age children are not achieving to the level necessary for their future success. A community learning center offers academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to students and their families when school is not in session. The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program is to create community learning centers for those times when school is not in session that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. The 21st CCLC Grant Program began with an appropriation in the United States Department of Education budget in 1997 of \$1 million with the first programs opening in 1998. Programs were direct federal-to-local funding. Funding first flowed through the states in FY 2002. All of the \$1 billion appropriation in federal FY 2004 will flow to the states on a formula basis and the states will make competitive awards. Michigan’s allocation for the third year is expected to be \$31 million, of which approximately \$21 million will be used for continuation grants and \$1.5 million for administration, training, and technical assistance. The legislation requires states to make awards only to applicants who will primarily serve students who attend schools with a high concentration of poor students, giving priority to applicants serving children in low-performing schools. States must also give priority to applicants that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement under Title I and that are submitted jointly by school districts receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations.

LEGISLATION

President Bush signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, into law on January 8, 2002. This legislation focuses on improving student achievement for all students, especially children in the nation's most disadvantaged schools and communities. Title IV, Part B, authorizes the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The 21st CCLC program further assists the State Board of Education with the goal of prioritizing service to low-performing schools. The program addresses the Strategic Initiative of Integrating Communities and Schools because priority is given to applicants that propose collaboration between schools and community-based organizations. Programs in elementary schools may also address the Strategic Initiative of Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy.

CRITERIA

☒ Defined in Legislation ☒ Defined in Department's Grant ☒ Proposed by Staff

Criteria for eligible applicants are defined in the federal legislation. The Department must assure that the target population will meet federal requirements and priorities or the State application will be defunded. A competitive application in rubric format has been developed to differentiate between proposals that have a high probability of creating and sustaining community learning centers to meet the purposes of the program. The purposes of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants are to:

- provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help student performance standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and mathematics;
- offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs, that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
- offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Federal guidelines state that eligible applicants may be Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or community-based organizations (CBOs), including faith-based organizations and other public or private organizations. A consortium of two or more such agencies, organizations, or entities is also eligible. The statute encourages eligible organizations to collaborate in applying for funds.

TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Federal criteria require that states make awards only to applicants that will primarily serve students who attend schools with a high concentration of poor students, giving priority to applicants serving children in low-performing schools. Therefore, applicants must propose services only to schools with 30 percent or more of the students enrolled eligible for free or reduced price meals. Additional priority will be given to applicants proposing services to schools in districts with 50 percent or more census poverty. In addition, priority will be given to applicants proposing service to students who attend low-performing schools, those identified through EducationYES! as D-alert or unaccredited. Additional priority will be given to LEAs that apply jointly with CBOs and propose services to Title I buildings in School Improvement status.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The allocation to Michigan for this purpose is expected to be \$31 million in 2004, of which approximately \$21 million will be used for continuation grants, \$8.7 million for new competitive grants, and \$1.5 million for administration, training, and technical assistance. By statute, no individual grant will be less than \$50,000 per year, renewable for up to five years based on continued funding and adequate progress.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT

Office of School Excellence

PROGRAM ADMINISTERING GRANT

Early Childhood and Parenting Programs

PROGRAM CONTACT

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